

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 14-21, as follows:

The method allows for successful removal from the mold even though the soap is more liable to chipping than ordinary soap because of air bubbles. At mold opening, however, the solidified soap bar tends to fall without being secured to a split of the mold. The soap bar very easily breaks up if dropped, which results in contamination of the production equipment. A soap bar should therefore be held in a split without fail. Apart from that issue, which split a soap bar holds to when the mold is opened tends to differ from cycle to cycle. This means that the step of removal from the mold with ~~[[an]]~~ a handling unit tends to be complicated, which can reduce the productivity.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 28 to page 6, line 1, as follows:

In order ~~[[to]]~~ for a soap bar to hold to the first split 1A more securely, it is preferred that the ratio of the surface roughness Ra of the large surface roughness region in the recess 11B of the second split 1B to that in the recess 11A of the first split 1A be in a range of from 1.003 to 300, more preferably of from 1.01 to 100.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, line 28 to page 10, line 4, as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. ~~[[1]]~~ 3, the large surface roughness region of the first split 1A is the bottom of the recess 11A. Namely, the large surface roughness region is substantially parallel to the parting face PL of the split mold. That configuration allows for easier removal of a soap bar from the first split 1A and for the soap bar remaining in the second split 1B more securely. The term “substantially parallel” is as defined above.